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TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

KEN GIVENS COMMISSIONER

REGULATORY SERVICES PLANT CERTIFICATION

May 2, 2003

Dear Plant Producer or Plant Dealer/Landscaper:

Enclosed in this letter you will find information regarding the proper use of certificates and compliance documentation and Imported Fire Ant zones. These zones may change year to year..

I. Responsibilities of plant producers or plant dealer/landscapers <u>located outside</u> the regulated zones:

A. Receiving shipments from a regulated zone:

- i. Proper compliance documentation (IFA requires an USDA shield), must be attached.
- **ii.** A copy of a valid inspection certificate from the state of origin, Department of Agriculture, must also accompany each shipment. Certificate number and expiration date must be included.

B. Receiving shipments from non-regulated zones:

A copy of a valid inspection certificate from the state of origin, Department of Agriculture, must also accompany each shipment. Certificate number and expiration date must be included.

C. Sending shipments:

You must have attached to your invoice a copy of your current valid Tennessee Department of Agriculture Certificate.

II. Responsibilities of plant producers or plant dealer/landscapers <u>located within</u> a regulated zone:

A. Receiving shipments from zones regulated for the same pest:

A copy of a valid inspection certificate from the state of origin, Department of Agriculture, must also accompany each shipment. Certificate number and expiration date must be included.

- **B.** Sending shipments within the same regulated zone:
 - You must have attached to your invoice a copy of your current valid Tennessee Department of Agriculture Certificate
- **C.** Sending shipments outside the regulated zone:
 - i. Provide compliance documentation (i.e. USDA shield or TDA Shipping Notification Form, etc.) which shows strict adherence to the requirements of the compliance protocols (i.e. treatments, grass/weed management, etc.).
 - **ii.** You must have attached to your invoice a copy of your current valid Tennessee Department of Agriculture Certificate.

NOTE - Records must be maintained for a minimum of three years in order to demonstrate that plant shipments comply with these requirements.

NOTE - A copy of your current valid Tennessee Department of Agriculture Certificate must be displayed at each sales location, and plant installation work site.

For more information regarding Plant Certification visit our web site at http://www.state.tn.us/agriculture/regulate/plants/